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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

Please consider the claims as follows:

1-38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A method for encoding a music interface in an interactive program guide (IPG), comprising:

encoding a plurality of music channel rows using slice-based encoding and transmission at a headend for recombination at a set top terminal (STT) for display in a music channel listing region;

encoding a header region using slice-based encoding and transmission at the headend for recombination at the STT for display; and

encoding a music channel description region using slice-based encoding and transmission at the headend for recombination at the STT for display; and

combining the slice-based encoded music channel listing region, header region and music channel description region in an order to be decoded before transmission to the STT for display.

wherein the music interface for display on the STT includes the music channel listing region, the header region, and the music channel description region recombined in the order each region arrives.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

encoding a plurality of audio streams for tuning at the STT, each audio stream associated with a music channel.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, further comprising:

encoding a video region using slice-based encoding and transmission at the headend for recombination at the STT for display;

wherein the music interface includes the video region.

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42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41, wherein the music channel listing region includes a left display region and a right display region.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 42, wherein the right display region is the video region.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the header region is pre-loaded to a local memory of the STT.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the music channel listing region includes a background having background strips encoded at the headend to generate a bitmap to be sent to the STT.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 45, wherein the background strips are stored in a local memory of the STT.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein the music interface is sent via one transmission channel.

48. (Currently Amended) An encoder for encoding a bitstream representing a music interface in an interactive program guide (IPG), the bitstream comprising:

a first set of packets including a first set of slices for a music channel listing region for each of a plurality of channel listing pages, the first set of packets being identifiable by a first set of packet identifiers;

a second set of packets including a second set of slices for a header region, the second set of packets being identifiable by a second set of packet identifiers;

a third set of packets including a third set of slices for a music channel description region, the third set of packets being identifiable by a third set of packet identifiers; and

combining the first set of packets, second set of packets and third set of packets in an order to be decoded before transmission to a set top terminal (STT) for display,

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wherein the music interface for display on ~~a set top terminal (STT)~~ the STT includes the music channel listing region, the header region, and the music channel description region recombined in the order the first, second and third set of packets arrive.

49. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 48, further comprising:
a fourth set of packets including a plurality of audio streams, each audio stream associated with a music channel.

50. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 48, further comprising:
a fourth set of packets including a fourth set of slices for a video region, the fourth set of packets being identifiable by a fourth set of packet identifiers;
wherein the music interface includes the video region.

51. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 50, wherein the music channel listing region includes a left display region and a right display region.

52. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 51, wherein the right display region is the video region.

53. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 48, wherein the header region is pre-loaded to a local memory of the STT.

54. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 48, wherein the music channel listing region includes a background having a plurality of background strips encoded at the headend to generate a bitmap to be sent to the STT.

55. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 54, wherein the background strips are stored in a local memory of the STT.

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56. (Previously presented) The encoder of claim 48, wherein the music interface is sent via one transmission channel.